

Fort Sheridan Forage Storehouse  
(Building No. 39)  
South side of Thorpe Road  
Fort Sheridan  
Lake County  
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-13

HABS  
ILL,  
49-FTSH,  
1/13-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20243

FORT SHERIDAN, FORAGE STOREHOUSE  
(Building No. 39)

*FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICT*

HABS  
ILL,  
49-FTSH,  
1/13-

Location: On the south side of Thrope Road across from the building for the Blacksmith (Building no. 77), Fort Sheridan, Lake County, Illinois.

USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 16.432940.4673460.

Present Owner and Occupant: United States Army.

Present Use: Warehouse.

Significance: This building was designed by Holabird and Roche for use as a forage storehouse. Its appropriate form, simple decorative detail and unusual construction features make it a notable example of warehouse architecture.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1891.
2. Architect: Holabird and Roche, Chicago.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present.
4. Contractor: Not known.
5. Original plan and construction: A two story, rectangular block constructed of buff-cream brick. The roof is flat; the longer sides are on the north and south.
6. Alterations and additions: Very few modifications have been made to the building. Additional doors have been cut through on the north side and a concrete loading platform was constructed on the south side.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings:

Directorate of Facilities Engineering, Fort Sheridan,  
Illinois. Piers, sections and details, first floor plan,  
second floor plan, roof plan, foundation plan, 1891.

Holabird and Root, 300 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois  
60606. Plans and elevations, n.d. Drawings are water  
damaged.

2. Old views:

Views of Fort Sheridan, Record Group 92, Audio Visual  
Archives, National Archives and Records Service,  
Washington, D.C. Reference no. 92-F-61A-21.

3. Bibliography:

Papers Relating to Fort Sheridan. Office of the  
Quartermaster General, Consolidated Correspondence Files,  
1784-1915 and Office of the Quartermaster General,  
Construction Division, Record Group 92. U.S. Army  
Continental Command, 6th Corps Area Records, Record Group  
394 (contains specifications), National Archives and  
Records Service, Washington, D.C.

Real Property Records, Directorate of Facilities Engineering,  
Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins  
Architectural Historian  
Historic American Buildings  
Survey  
June, 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The building was designed by  
Holabird and Roche for use as a forage storehouse, and its  
simple block form reflects that usage. The influence of the

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Richardsonian Romanesque style popular at the time of its construction is apparent in the decorative brick detail and arcaded first and second story windows which lend verticality to the building.

2. Condition of fabric: The building is in generally good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: A two story building, 65' by 140' with a full basement and eight bays across the long side.
2. Foundations: Limestone rubble.
3. Wall construction, finish, and color: The brick is laid in common bond, four rows of stretchers to one of headers. At 14' intervals 2'6" brick pilasters run from the ground up to the projecting cornice.
4. Structural system: Brick bearing wall.
5. Chimneys: One exterior brick chimney on the east side constructed of a pink-red brick. There is a metal door at the base.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: There are four double doors, one on the south, one on the west and two on the north, with loft doors directly above them on the second floor level. The doors on the first floor level on the north side are metal. The single loft doors above them are board and batten. The door on the first level on the south side is formed of diagonal boards. A small single door is cut through one of the double doors. The loft door on this side is paneled wood. On the west side the door on the first level is board and batten. The double loft doors above it are metal.

None of the first floor doors are at ground level. The sills extend out and are supported by piers. On the south side a concrete loading platform with a flat, corrugated metal roof takes the place of the extended sill.

There is only one entrance into the basement. It is on the east side at the bottom of a flight of concrete stairs. The door is metal.

All the doors are painted brown.

- b. Windows: The windows on the first and second story levels are arcaded forming a vertical unit emphasized by a recessed panel between the upper and lower windows. The segmental arched, flat topped brick lintels of first story windows fit into this recessed panel, while the rounded, gauged arches above the second story windows are flush with the wall. The tympanums have been infilled with wood paneling. A projecting row of headers tops the arches on the second story level. Another row of projecting headers runs beneath the arches encircling the building.

The stone sills of the second story windows are recessed within the panel. The first story windows have lug sills. Some of the original limestone sills remain on the building. Others have been replaced or covered with concrete. The first story windows are covered with protective wiring.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The roof is flat and covered with tar paper and asphalt.
- b. Cornices: A brick cornice projects out to a level that is flush with the engaged piers on the walls. Below the cornice rows of corbeled brick graduate inward until the last row is flush with the wall.

C. Description of Interior

- 1. Floor plans: There is basically one large room on each floor. On the first floor a small area is partitioned off to form an office. In the basement a small cinderblock enclosure is located in the southwest corner. A brick structure housing the elevator is located in the center of all three floors.
- 2. Stairways: Enclosed, wood, single run stairways provide access to the second floor and basement.

3. Flooring: The floor supports for the first and second floors are large timbers 7-1/2' by 13-1/2' bolted together. In the basement massive piers formed by concrete, limestone and brick provide additional support for the first floor. There are three rows of eight of these piers and on each wall a set of engaged piers. The concrete base of the pillars varies from 37" to 66" across and from 4" to 35" in height. The limestone section varies from 24" to 44" across and from 27" to 44" in height. The brick section varies from 21" to 33" across and 17" to 32" in height. The concrete section above the brick section is as wide as the brick section and is uniformly 8" high.

The floor boards on the first floor are 5-1/2" across. On the second floor, 2" by 7-1/2" boards are laid on their side to form a floor 7-1/2" thick.

4. Walls and ceiling finish: The walls are brick painted gray and off white. In the basement the foundation forms part of the wall. The ceilings are unfinished.
  5. Mechanical equipment: The building was not heated until 1929. The present steam heating system relies on oil rather than on coal as it did earlier. Electricity was available to the post as early as 1890, although the original lighting may have been by gas.
- D. Site: The building has no main facade. The long sides are on the north and south. It is situated near the southern boundary of the original post. Railroad tracks run past the northern entrance.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins  
Architectural Historian  
Historic American Buildings  
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### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under the auspices of Interagency Archeological Services, Atlanta and funded by the U.S. Department of Army, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. It included a historical and architectural survey of the fort to provide the necessary data for implementation of the Fort Sheridan Historic District. Documentation was obtained on thirty-one buildings. The

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survey and documentation were accomplished by Sally Kress Tompkins, an architectural historian on the HABS staff, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth Anderson, Principal Architect; Carolyn Pitts, Principal Historian; and Allen Chambers, architectural historian and editor. The photographs were taken by William Kumpf of Architectural Camera, Chicago.

ADDENDUM TO  
FORT SHERIDAN, FORAGE WAREHOUSE (BUILDING NO. 39)  
Fort Sheridan Historic District  
South Side of Thorpe Road  
Fort Sheridan  
Lake County  
Illinois

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
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